

TOWN OF ABINGDON  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 26, 2010 - 5:30 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Abingdon Planning Commission was held Monday, July 26, 2010, at 5:30 P.M. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, downstairs meeting room.

Mr. Matthew T. Bundy, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Mr. Garrett Jackson called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Matthew T. Bundy, Chairman  
Dr. H. Ramsey White, Jr., Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Gregory W. Kelly  
Mr. Kenneth Shuman  
Mr. Gary Kimbrell  
Ms. Francine Ivery

Comprising a quorum of the Commission

Members Absent: Mr. Robert M. Howard, Councilman

Administrative Staff: Mr. W. Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning/Zoning  
Mr. Sean Taylor, Assistant Director of Planning/Zoning  
Mrs. Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney  
Mr. Jimmy C. Smith, Town Engineer

Visitors: Mr. John Beverly  
Ms. Donna Kilgore

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(2) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, June 28, 2010

Mr. Kimbrell made a motion that the minutes of the regular meeting, June 28, 2010 be approved as presented. Mr. Shuman seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Mr. Kimbrell Aye  
Mr. Shuman Aye  
Mr. Kelly Aye  
Mr. Bundy Aye  
Dr. White Abstained  
Mrs. Ivery Abstained  
Mr. Howard Absent (New Member)

The motion passed.

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(3) PUBLIC HEARING

**PROPOSED REZONING** - Edmond and Lillian Beverly, 17085 Sedona Drive, Abingdon, VA 24211; Donna Kilgore, representative; application to rezone property located between Charwood Drive and Maiden Street on the left side of such street and known as Lot No. 1 of the Highlands Development, consisting of 0.5 acres, from B-2 General Business District to R-1 Residential District.  
**Tax Map No.**  
**104E (1) 1.**

The floor was opened to hear a request to rezone property located between Charwood Drive and Maiden Street on the left side of such street and known as Lot No. 1 of the Highlands Development, consisting of 0.5 acres, from B-2 General Business District to R-1 Residential District.

Mr. John Beverly, representing his parents, Edmond and Lillian Beverly, stated that the property was purchased approximately 25 years ago and was the only vacant lot in this development. The property was not developed because it was thought that it might be used for business at some time, but no one has shown an interest for this purpose. Ms. Kilgore approached the property owners showing interest in constructing a residential structure if the property could be rezoned.

Ms. Kilgore stated that she lived in the subdivision several years ago and would like to return to the Abingdon area. She is interested in the property for the purpose of constructing a single-family residential structure.

Mr. Bundy asked if there was anyone else to speak regarding this request. No other persons spoke for or against this rezoning request and the floor was closed.

After discussion, Dr. White made a motion to recommend to Town Council that the request to rezone property located between Charwood Drive and Maiden Street on the left side of such street, known as Lot No. 1 of the Highlands Development, consisting of 0.5 acres, from B-2 General Business District to R-1 Residential District be approved. Mr. Kimbrell seconded the motion.

VOTE:

- Dr. White      Aye
- Mr. Kimbrell   Aye
- Mrs. Shuman   Aye
- Mr. Kelly      Aye
- Ms. Ivery      Aye
- Mr. Bundy     Aye

The motion passed.

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(4) Select Chairman and Vice-Chairman for Planning Commission

There was a reorganization of the Planning Commission for the selection of a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The floor was opened for nomination for selection of Chairman to the Planning Commission. Dr. White made a motion that Mr. Kimbrell be nominated to serve as Chairman. Mr. Shuman seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the floor was closed.

## VOTE:

Dr. White      Aye  
 Mr. Shuman    Aye  
 Mr. Kelly      Aye  
 Mr. Bundy     Aye  
 Ms. Ivery      Aye  
 Mr. Kimbrell   Abstained

The motion passed and Mr. Kimbrell was elected to serve as Chairman to the Planning Commission.

The floor was opened for nomination for selection of Vice-Chairman to the Planning Commission. Dr. White made a motion that Mr. Shuman be nominated to serve as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Kimbrell seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the floor was closed.

## VOTE:

Dr. White      Aye  
 Mr. Kimbrell   Aye  
 Mr. Kelly      Aye  
 Mr. Bunday    Aye  
 Ms. Ivery      Aye  
 Mr. Shuman    Abstained

The motion passed and Mr. Shuman was elected to serve as Vice-Chairman to the Planning Commission.

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## (5) Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Session

There was a discussion of some of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that need to be recognized and considered for future planning. Some of the items discussed are as follows:

Strengths

- Support for the Town's group, led by James Agner (Coomes Recreation Center), the Sheriff's Department and the Abingdon Police Department for all the time and work put into the Virginia Highlands Festival
- Recognize the expertise in different services that are offered from retirees and professionals, for many people who have located here; these strengths and services not many people are aware of
- Recognize more cooperation among people working together to make projects become successful
- More African-Americans are returning to the Abingdon area to settle
- Interests shown in the Mustering Grounds

Weaknesses/Opportunities

- Lack of parking
- Way-finding signage
- Lack of participation in voting in elections held
- Lack of a convention hotel and the need to attract one to locate here
- Town's relation with Washington County
- Lack of Town-wide pedestrian walk ability (included in Capital Improvement Plan), a need to make urban paths throughout Town; use some of the unopened rights of way and develop some urban paths instead of building more sidewalks, having paths that connect neighborhoods from the west all the way to the Coomes Recreation Center.
- Further development of the Arts District

Threats

- Redevelopment of Johnston Memorial Hospital and William King Arts Center
- County's lack of smart growth planning around the fringe of Town; the development being allowed is hurting the Town a lot more than the County such as traffic light issues, etc.

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There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, with unanimous approval, that the meeting be adjourned.

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Matthew T. Bundy, Chairman

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Gregory W. Kelly, Secretary